

Message Text

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64

ACTION DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01

CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 IO-10 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01

OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 (ISO) W

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O R 060040Z AUG 75 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9270

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USUN NEW YORK 1037

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MEXICO 6957

TEGUCIGALPA FOR AMBASSADOR JOVA

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS MX

SUBJECT: LOS: MEXICO TO ESTABLISH 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE

UNILATERALLY

1. ACCORDING TO A PRESS REPORT (DATELINED AUGUST 5, ALEXANDRIA), MEXICAN FOREIGN SECRETARY EMILIO RABASA ANNOUNCED THAT PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA HAS DECIDED GOM WILL ESTABLISH AN "ECONOMIC ZONE" OF 200 MILES FROM MEXICO'S SHORELINE AND WILL CLOSE THE GULF OF CALIFORNIA. RABASA SAID THAT MEXICO WILL HAVE EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS TO EXPLORE, INVESTIGATE AND EXPLOIT THE RENEWABLE AND NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES IN THE WATER COLUMN AND SUBSOIL WITHIN THIS ZONE. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE ZONE WOULD INCLUDE A TWELVE-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA.

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2. RABASA INDICATED THAT THE GOM WOULD SUBMIT APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING THIS ZONE DURING THE NEXT SESSION OF CONGRESS (WHICH BEGINS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE PRESIDENTIAL INFORMED SEPTEMBER 1).

3. IN RESPONSE TO A REPORTER'S QUESTION, ABOUT WHETHER MEXICO WOULD BE UNDER ANY PRESSURE TO NOT TAKE THIS ACTION, RABASA RESPONDED SAYING THAT THE MARITIME POWERS, THE US, BRITAIN AND THE USSR, HAVE ALWAYS BEEN OPPOSED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ECONOMIC ZONE "BUT NOTHING OR NO ONE WILL STOP US."

4. RABASA ALSO SAID THAT THE GULF OF CALIFORNIA WOULD ONLY REMAIN OPEN FOR AIR AND SHIP NAVIGATION AND SUBMARINE CABLES.

5. COMMENT: FOREGOING IS, OF COURSE, BASED ON WIRE SERVICE REPORT FROM ALEXANDRIA AND HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN CONFIRMED LOCALLY. INDEED, IF TRUE, ECHEVERRIA DECISION WILL COME AS SURPRISE TO GOM WORKING-LEVEL OFFICIALS HERE, WHO HAD EXPECTED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE TAKEN UNTIL FUTHER LOS CONSULTATIONS HAD TAKEN PLACE. SINCE ALL TOP-LEVEL FONSEC OFFICIALS ARE CURRENTLY EITHER OUT OF COUNTRY OR ON LEAVE, EMBASSY UNABLE TO CERTIFY REPORT'S ACCURACY WITH ANY AUTHORITY. (AMBASSADOR HAS IN FACT SOUGHT TO TRACK DOWN TOP LEVEL AUTHORITIES AND MAKE KNOWN OUR POSITION ON GULF AND UNILATERAL DECLARATION FOR PAST TEN DAYS, BUT WITHOUT SUCCESS). UNFORTUNATELY, ECHEVERRIA PREDILECTION FOR MAKING POLICY IN THE FIELD AND WITHOUT TECHNICAL ADVICE SEEMS TO HAVE PREVAILED ONCE AGAIN.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW OF THE SEA, PRESS COMMENTS, ADJACENT SEAS, TWO HUNDRED MILE LIMIT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MEXICO06957
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750270-0952
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750878/aaaacqqf.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION DLOS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOS: MEXICO TO ESTABLISH 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE UNILATERALLY
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, MX
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006